

THE MONTANIAN

Libby MT 59923

Wednesday

AUG 25 2004

Superior Clipping Service
Glendive MT 406-377-6612

SDMS Document ID



2031993



ASK EPA!!

Questions and Answers about
Asbestos and EPA's Investigation

Q: What's happening with the BNSF rail yard cleanup?

- A:** • BNSF will begin cleanup on the rail yard soon. The company has prepared a
• revised work plan in consultation with EPA and submitted it for review.

Last year, BNSF piloted a method of vacuuming soil through the ballast without moving or removing any tracks or ballast. Because this technique was not able to consistently achieve cleanup standards, EPA and BNSF mutually agreed to stop work. BNSF used the winter to look at alternative approaches.

The new plan calls for:

- (1) removing five tracks from the rail yard. Ties and equipment will be decontaminated;
- (2) excavating contaminated soil below tracks 1 and 2, and portions of tracks 3 and 5. The soil will be taken to the County landfill;
- (3) capping contaminated soil in other areas of the rail yard with a geotextile membrane and a soil/gravel mix;
- (4) backfilling with appropriate railroad sub-roadbed material and
- (5) reconstruction of tracks in a manner suitable to current rail operations.

The work plan and supporting documents are available for public review and comment at the EPA Information Center at 501 Mineral Ave. in Libby. EPA has not approved documents yet but has reviewed them. EPA will approve them after the public has had a chance to view them. Please send any written comments to Jim Christiansen (8EPA-SR); EPA Region 8; 999 18th St. Suite 300; Denver, CO 80202-2466.

Once approved, the cleanup is expected to begin in September, 2004, and be completed by the end of November, 2004.

For more information call toll free:

Wendy Thomi toll-free at 1-866-457-2690 extension 5037 or
EPA Information Center at 293-6194